

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3152

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA REP

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS:EAIR, UR, US

SUBJECT: USE OF RYAZAN AS BACK-UP AIRPORT FOR SHEREM-
ETYEVO

1. PAN AMERICAN LOCAL MANAGER NELSON INFORMED E/C
COUNSELOR JUNE 15 THAT A GROUP OF FOREIGN AIRLINE
REPRESENTATIVES HAD RECENTLY VISITED RYAZAN AIRPORT,
SOME 200 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF MOSCOW, WHICH IS TO BE
USED AS A BACK-UP FOR FLIGHTS TO THE PRIMARY MOSCOW
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SHEREMETYEVO. HE WAS NOT ABLE T
GO PERSONALLY BUT STATED THAT THOSE REPRESENTATIVES WHO
DID TRAVEL TO RYAZAN WERE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER
TERMINAL BUT WERE RECEIVED IN A TENT SET UP FOR THAT
PURPOSE. THE REASON WHY ACCESS TO THE TERMINAL WAS
DENIED WAS NOT KNOWN TO PAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE,
BUT HE NOTED THAT RYAZAN IS FORMER MILITARY AIRFIELD
NOW TAKEN OVER BY AEROFLOT AND STILL HAS MILITARY
PLANES ON THE GROUND.

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2. NELSON EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN COMPLAINTS
ABOUT FLIGHTS REROUTED FROM SHEREMETYEVO TO VNUKOVO,
THE PRESENT BACK-UP AIRPORT FOR MOSCOW. CUSTOMS AND
IMMIGRATION PERSONNEL WERE REPORTEDLY SLOW IN APPEARING
DUE TO A FAILURE TO GIVE TIMELY NOTIFICATION BETWEEN
AIRPORTS, AND THERE WERE NO STEPS OR GROUND POWER
EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR DISEMBARKING PASSENGERS AND

LUGGAGE.

3. NELSON PROMISED TO PROVIDE REPORT ON RECENT RYAZAN VISIT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

4. COMMENT; RYAZAN/DYAGILEVO IS, OF COURSE,ALREADY AN AERODROME OF ENTRY INTO THE USSR. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, WE ASSUME THAT RYAZAN IS BEING OPENED AS AN ADDITIONAL BACK-UP AIRPORT FOR SHEREMETYEVO. IF CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND DISEMBARKATION EQUIPMENT ARE BAD AT VNUKOVO, WHICH IS JUST OUTSIDE THE MOSCOW CIRCUMFERENTIAL HIGHWAY, WE DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD BE BETTER AT RYAZAN. MOREOVER, TRANSIT TO MOSCOW (THROUGH A CLOSED AREA) WOULD BE LONG AND CUMBERSOME BY LAND. WE WOULD PRESUME THAT RYAZAN WOULD BE USED PRIMARILY IN CASE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE ENTIRE MOSCOW AREA, BUT WE SHOULD KNOW MORE ONCE WE HAVE THE INDICATED REPORT AND AFTER WE HAVE DISCUSSED MOVE WITH SOVIET AIR OFFICIALS. MATLOCK

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